

1ST ARMORED DIVISION  
AMERICA'S TANK DIVISION

# The Old Ironsides Report

TOUJOURS PRÊT AIRBORNE AP

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## U.S. Army veterinarians get new gear to aid Baghdad Zoo, train Iraqis

Story and photo by Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson  
372nd MPAD

What is grisly, temperamental, weighs 400 pounds and is drawing the attention and treatment of some of the U.S. Army's brightest medical personnel?

No, Saddam has not gained an obscene amount of weight lately, at least not to our knowledge.

The brown bears, residents of the Baghdad Zoo in Central Baghdad, are a few of the many animals that will benefit from recent equipment purchases by U.S. Army Civil Affairs and medical command soldiers Oct. 23.

"We purchased new surgical and diagnostic equipment for use on the animals at the Baghdad Zoo," said Lt. Col. Jose Lozada, veterinarian with the 490th Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit from Abilene, Texas. The Civil Affairs Battalion is part of Task Force 1st Armored Division.

The Army veterinarians purchased \$42,000 in equipment for the zoo, including an autoclave for instrument sterilization, an X-ray machine for animal bone-structure assessment, and a (vaporizer) to accurately measure anesthesia drugs, Lozada said.

"The idea is to bring the veterinary capabilities of the Baghdad Zoo up to a 21st Century standard," said Lozada. "The value of these machines is immeasurable when it comes to the functionality and effectiveness of the zoo."

Dr. Adel Salman, chief veterinarian and director of the Baghdad Zoo, has seen the daily impact of the U.S. Army's reconstruction efforts at the zoo. He said the new equipment is a huge stride forward for the facility in the realm of animal care and welfare.

"Before the help from the U.S. Army, the zoo was very poor for equipment. There was no surgical capability and little treatment ability because we had no anesthesia or instruments," said Salman. "We really appreciate support from Lt. Col. Lozada and the U.S. Army."

The portable X-ray machine, part of the equipment purchased with Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP) funds from the 352nd Civil Affairs Command, an Army Reserve unit from Riverdale, Md., will add significant mission flexibility to the zoo staff by allowing them to take X-rays of animals inside their enclosures, said Lozada.

In the past, this process would have taken several helpers to sedate and move the animals being treated by truck to a local clinic for examination, said Lozada. This is considerably more difficult, and more dangerous than on-site treatment.

Another benefit of the new equipment, Lozada said, is the opportunity to train the zoo staff on modern equipment and medical technology.

"Our number one priority is to train the zoo vets on their equipment, and teach them how to perform surgical procedures," Lozada said.



Col. Mark Gants, Coalition Joint Task Force -- Seven veterinarian, checks out a new portable anesthesia vaporizer, purchased with Commander's Emergency Response Program funds. The vaporizer, which accurately measures and administers anesthetic drugs, will allow veterinarians to conduct surgical procedures on ailing animals while they sleep soundly and safely.

### *Chaplain's thought for the day* *Words of Wisdom*

A first grade teacher collected some old, well-known proverbs. She gave each child in her class the first half of a proverb, and had him or her come up with the rest. Here are a few results:

As You Shall Make Your Bed So Shall You... Mess It Up.

Better Be Safe Than... Punch A 5th Grader.

Strike While The... Bug Is Close.

It's Always Darkest Before... Daylight Savings Time.

You Can Lead A Horse To Water But...How?

If You Lie Down With The Dogs, You'll... Stink In The Morning.

A Penny Saved Is... Not Much.

Ah, the "wisdom" of children! That's exactly what proverbs are intended to be -- an expression of wisdom, the result of years of experience expressed in a few concise words.

The Bible talks much about the importance of wisdom -- not the wisdom of the world, but God's wisdom. Wisdom is the ability to make right choices, and of course the only way to make right choices is to guide our lives by God's Word.

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments." (Psalm 110:10)

*May God bless you with wisdom as you open your heart today to His will.*

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## **Halloween '03 at BIAP**



## **SPORTS**

### **Mavs waive new uniforms after 1 game**

By Bob Velin, USA TODAY

The Dallas Mavericks' original uniform design lasted 21 years. Their latest shimmery silver road duds lasted one game.



Mavericks' Antoine Walker models the new silver road uniform that met with early retirement.

**Mavericks' Antoine Walker**

After a less than positive response following the uniform's debut opening night against the Los Angeles Lakers on national TV, the Mavs have decided to put the new units in mothballs for now.

"It wasn't a costly decision at all," Mavericks owner Mark Cuban said in an e-mail message Thursday. "In this case the uniforms didn't look on the court like we expected them to and we decided to go in another direction.

"It's no big deal. They still look good as casual wear for Mavs fans." The new uniforms most likely will end up being auctioned as collectors' items, said corporate communications manager Dawn Holgate.

Cuban had decided to introduce a second road uniform this season to "add a slight edge to our current look." He said, "I got to the final look by putting an alternative spin on the silver element in our current color palette, giving it a fashionable, less traditional feel."

## ***This Day in History***

**1 November 1512**

### **Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel opens**

From HistoryChannel.com

The ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome, one of Italian artist Michelangelo's finest works, was exhibited to the public for the first time on Nov. 1, 1512.

Michelangelo Buonarroti, the greatest of the Italian Renaissance artists, was born in the small village of Caprese in 1475. The son of a government administrator, he grew up in Florence, a center of the early Renaissance movement, and became an artist's apprentice at age 13. Demonstrating obvious talent, he was taken under the wing of Lorenzo de' Medici, the ruler of the Florentine republic and a great patron of the arts. After demonstrating his mastery of sculpture in such works as the Pietà (1498) and David (1504), he was called to Rome in 1508 to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel--the chief consecrated space in the Vatican.

Michelangelo's epic ceiling frescoes, which took several years to complete, are among his most memorable works. Central in a complex system of decoration featuring numerous figures are nine panels devoted to biblical world history. The most famous of these is The Creation of Adam, a painting in which the arms of God and Adam are stretching toward each other. Michelangelo completed the work in 1512.